

REMARKS

According to the foregoing, claims 1, 6, 11, 16 and 23 are amended; thus, the pending claims 1-23 remain for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added and accordingly, approval and entry of amended claims 1, 6, 11, 16 and 23 are respectfully requested.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-23 are pending.

Claims 1-23 are rejected.

PRIORITY UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 119

The Office Action, at page 2, acknowledges receipt of the priority documents. However, in the Office Action Summary, the Examiner checked box 12(b). Applicants respectfully request recognition of all the priority documents in the next office communication.

ITEMS 5-6: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, 15-18, AND 20-23 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER FUJIEDA, U.S. PATENT PUBLICATION NO. 2001/0007997 (HEREINAFTER "FUJIEDA"), IN VIEW OF WEINBERG ET AL., U.S. PATENT NO. 6,144,962 (HEREINAFTER "WEINBERG").

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 is amended to recite, in part, "an icon storage, formed by hardware, configured to store icon data corresponding to the file information, said icon data including an image representative of a CAD image corresponding to the file information." Support for the claim amendment can be found, for example, at page 18, line 6 to page 19, line 2 and in FIGS. 7-9 and 11-12.

The Office Action, at pages 6-7, asserts that Weinberg at column 8, lines 51-53 discloses the claimed "icon storage." Applicants respectfully disagree, because Weinberg at column 2, lines 37-41 recites:

A recursive layout method is then applied which uses the parent-child node relationships, as such relationships exist within the tree, to spatially position the nodes (represented as respective icons within the map) on the display screen such that children nodes are positioned around and connected to their respective immediate parents. (This layout method can also be used to display other types of hierarchical data structures, such as the tree structure of a conventional file system.)

In other words, Weinberg proposes a method of facilitating visualization of web sites, by

displaying a graphical map of the web sites based on the tree representation.

The Office Action, at pages 6-7, further asserts that Weinberg at column 8, lines 51-53 discloses the claimed "icon storage." Applicants respectfully disagree, because Weinberg at column 28, lines 51-53 recites:

As generally illustrated by FIGS. 3 and 4, different icons are used to represent the different URL types when the nodes are viewed in a sufficiently zoomed-in mode.

In other words, Weinberg discloses using identical icons to represent respective different types of URL and distinguishes between the identical icons by associating a name with the icon. See, for example, FIG. 3 of Weinberg wherein the icons associated with "xrunnerban" and "page 3" are identical. In contrast, claim 1 recites "an icon storage, formed by hardware, and configured to store icon data corresponding to the file information, **said icon data including an image representative of a CAD image corresponding to the file information.**" As seen, for example, in FIGS. 8 and 9, each part, TAMURA 1, TAMURA2 AND TAMURA2-1, has a distinct icon, and, thus, because "said icon data including an image representative of a CAD image corresponding to the file information," as recited in claim 1, one benefit of the claimed embodiment is that a user can easily visualize how the different parts and different generations of each part are associated with one another.

The Office Action asserts that Fujieda discloses the claimed "a storage section, formed by hardware, configured to store file information in units of generations" at paragraphs 143-144 and 146-150 and in Figs. 9-10.

Applicants respectfully disagree because Fujieda, at paragraph 143, recites:

In this embodiment, different phases are set for a model and the version number is assigned to each phase, thus making it possible to **manage the model by the phase.**

(emphasis added)

In other words, Fujieda manages models based upon the model's phase.

Furthermore, Fujieda discusses "phases" at paragraph 141, which recites:

Referring now to FIG. 9, a third embodiment of the present invention will be described. Usually, in product design work, the **step of planning a product, the step of designing the product in detail based on the plan, and the step of obtaining approval for a designed model** are repeated, and a trial article is produced in accordance with the finally determined model. **Such a series of steps is hereinafter called "phase."**

(emphasis added)

In other words, the “phases” disclosed in Fujieda are the steps of planning a product, designing the product and obtaining approval for the product. Thus, Fujieda discloses storing information based upon the stage the model is at, either the planning stage, the design stage or an approval stage. In contrast, the claimed embodiment recites “a storage section ... configured to store file information **in units of generations**,” which differs from the “phases,” i.e. steps, of Fujieda.

Fujieda further discloses, at paragraph 144:

In the illustrated example, a model A has three kinds of phase, phases #1 to #3, and **the version number starting with “1” is assigned to each phase**. By thus generating an independent version number for each phase for the management of the model, it is **possible to acquire target data by using the phase as a clue**.

In other words, and as seen in FIG. 9 of Fujieda, for each phase, each model is assigned a version number starting with one, that is, multiple models may have the same version number if they are in different phases. Thus, Fujieda does not organize the data based upon the version number; rather, as noted above, Fujieda “manage[s] the model by the phase” and makes it “possible to acquire target data by using the phase” (See Fujieda at paragraphs 143 and 144).

Furthermore, Fujieda, at paragraph 157 recites:

In the above embodiment, **the model is managed by means of multiple phases**, and it is therefore possible to easily make reference to a model of desired destination or of desired level of trial manufacture.

Therefore, while multiple versions of a model may exist for each phase, in Fujieda, “the model is managed by means of multiple phases.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Fujieda fails to disclose, either expressly or implicitly, the claimed “a storage section, formed by hardware, configured to store file information **in units of generations**,” because Fujieda manages models based upon each phase in the design and manufacturing process.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Fujieda fails to disclose, either expressly or implicitly, the claimed “**an inter-file correspondence table**, formed by hardware, configured to **store corresponding relationships** of the file information stored in the storage, **including generation information**,” because Fujieda merely discusses managing models based upon a phase, which, as discussed above, differs from the claimed “generation information.”

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be based upon Weinberg and Fujieda, because there is no evidence one skilled in the art would

modify Weinberg, Fujieda or a combination of Weinberg and Fujieda to include the claimed “storage section, formed by hardware, configured to **store file information in units of generations**, each file information having a different generation before and after a modification by an editing process; an inter-file correspondence table, formed by hardware, configured to store corresponding relationships of the file information stored in the storage, including generation information; an icon storage, formed by hardware, configured to store icon data corresponding to the file information, **said icon data including an image representative of a CAD image corresponding to the file information**; and a processing unit configured to refer to the inter-file correspondence table and the icon storage and **to display, on the display unit, icon data of the file information stored in the storage section in units of generations**, and to display relationships of the file information corresponding to the icon data,” as recited, for example, in claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that there is no evidence that one skilled in the art would modify Fujieda’s phase management system “**to display, on the display unit, icon data of the file information stored in the storage section in units of generations**,” wherein the icon data includes “**an image representative of a CAD image** corresponding to the file information,” because Fujieda manages its models in units of phase and Weinberg merely displays icons associated with a type of a URL. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited references.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 6, 11, 16 and 23 patentable distinguish over the cited references for similar reasons as independent claim 1.

Dependent claims 2-3, 5, 7-8, 10, 12-13, 15, 17-18 and 20-22 patentably distinguish at least due to their dependence from the independent claims and/or for reciting patentably distinguishing features of their own.

Claims 2-3 display the relationships of the selected icon data. For example, claim 2 recites, in part, “said processing unit **displaying on the display unit the relationships of selected icon data with emphasis** when the input controller detects an input selecting the selected icon data from the displayed icon data.” Further, claim 3 recites, in part, “wherein the processing unit **displays on the display unit the relationships** of the file information corresponding to the icon data **by lines connecting related icon data**.” The Office Action relies upon Figure 10 of Fujieda to disclose the same. However, Figure 10 of Fujieda merely shows lines connecting various components which make up a rear suspension. That is, Fujieda discusses using lines to show the relationship between a rear suspension in a single phase of the rear suspension. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Fujieda fails to disclose,

either expressly or implicitly, the claimed “wherein the processing unit **displays on the display unit the relationships** of the file information corresponding to the icon data **by lines connecting related icon data**,” wherein the “relationships” include “generation information,” as recited in claim 1, because Fujieda merely discusses using lines to show a relationship among the various components which make up a rear suspension. For example, support for the claimed embodiments can be found in figures 9, 11 and 12 and, for example, in the specification at page 19, line 21 to page 22, line 4.

Withdrawal of the rejection of the pending claims and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

ITEMS 7-8: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 4, 9, 14 AND 19 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER FUJIEDA, IN VIEW OF WEINBERG, IN FURTHER VIEW OF MILLER ET AL., U.S. PATENT NO. 6,661,437, HEREINAFTER MILLER

Dependent claims 4, 9, 14 and 19 patentably distinguish at least due to their dependence from the independent claims and/or for reciting patentably distinguishing features of their own.

Claim 4 displays the relationships of the selected icon data. For example, claim 4 recites “wherein a kind, width and color of the lines connecting the icon data are set differently for each generation.” For example, support for the claimed embodiments can be found in figures 9, 11 and 12 and, for example, in the specification at page 19, line 21 to page 22, line 4.

Withdrawal of the rejection of the pending claims and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing has clearly distinguished the pending claims over the references and rejections of record. Further, all outstanding objections have been overcome by the foregoing.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.


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If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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